Country	' International Tourist Arrivals in 2006 (in million)
France	79.1
Spain	58.5
USA	51.1
China	49.6

India, with foreign tourist arrivals (FTAs) of 4.45 million in 2006, ranked 42nd in the world.

(c) to (e) India has been achieving consistently a high growth rate of 13.3%, 13.5% and 12.4% in FTAs in 2005, 2006 and 2007 respectively due to various steps taken by the Government including the "Incredible India Campaign".

Some important steps taken to provide further impetus to the growth of FTAs in India includes the integrated development of tourist infrastructure at tourist circuits and destinations, growth of hotel infrastructure particularly budget hotels, augmentation of air capacity, enhancing availability of skilled manpower, according greater focus in emerging markets particularly in the regions of China, North-East Asia and South-East Asia and international publicity campaigns through the electronic and print media.

Development of tourism projects

2469. SHRI MAT1LAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects put forward by the States and Union Territories to develop tourism during the years, 2006-07 and 2007-08 in the respective States/Union Territories;

(b) how many of these projects are from the North-Eastem States; and

(c) the names of the projects sanctioned and funds released for North-Eastern States?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SON1): (a) to (c) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily undertaken by State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations themselves. Ministry of Tourism, however, provides financial assistance to States/Union Territories for tourism projects on the basis of project proposals received from them in accordance with the scheme guidelines subject to availability of funds. During 2006-07,278 projects for Rs. 642.42 crore were sanctioned for all States/Union Territories. Out of these 73 projects for Rs. 145.70 crore were for North-Eastern States. During 2007-08,277 projects for Rs. 645.13 crore were sanctioned for all States/Union Territories. Out of these 86 projects for Rs. 174.69 crore were for North-Eastern States, Details of projects sanctioned during 2006-07 and 2007-08 for North-Eastern States are given in the Statement.

Statement

The Projects Sanctioned by Ministry of Tourism during 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 in North-Eastern States

(Rs. in Lakh)

SINc	State/UTo.	No. of Projects sancd.	2006-07 Amount sancd.	Amount released sancd.	No. of Projects	2007-08 Amount sancd	Amount released
1.	Assam	9	2453.39	1813.21	5	1271.90	1017.52
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	12	1887.80	1497.24	10	3330.12	2664.08
3.	Manipur	9	939.35	649.48	5	1110.77	888.62
4.	Meghalaya	9	1435.29	1149.93	2	674.40	539.52
5.	Mizoram	9	2613.38	2044.80	5	1692.94	1354.35
6.	Nagaland	8	2340.32	1862.51	21	2241.35	1793.07
7.	Sikkim	13	2609.42	1650.66	27	6036.48	4824.82
8	Tripura	4	291.27	98.01	11	1110.76	888.60
	TOTAL:	73	14570.22	10765.84	86	17468.72	13970.58

Bed and breakfast scheme

2470. SHRIMATI V1PLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of applications, received from private house owners under "bed and breakfast scheme" State-wise;

(b) the number of licenses issued to the applicants under this scheme, State-wise;

(c) whether Government proposes to extend the scheme, particularly in tourist destinations like Himachal Pradesh, beyond Commonwealth Games;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The details of applications received from private house owners and establishments approved under the Bed and Breakfast Scheme State-wise is placed at the Statement *(See* below).

(c) to (e) the Bed and Breakfast Scheme is applicable throughout the country including the State of Himachal Pradesh.